AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (cancelled).

13.   (new) A method for utilizing layered device drivers in a computer system, the method comprising:

emulating a device by a device driver, the device having a first device name;

binding a layered device driver to the device driver to form a layered device, the layered device having a second device name different than the first device name; and

exporting the layered device under the second device name for use in a layered stack.

14.   (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the first device name and the second device name are unique to a particular stage of re-layering.

15.   (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the first device name and the second device name are unique across all stages of re-layering.

16.   (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the computer system is a computer storage system, and wherein the layered stack is a logical unit input/output stack.

17.   (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the computer system comprises an operating system and a layered device driver registration system, and wherein the method further comprises:

registering the layered device driver with the operating system; and

registering the layered device driver with the layered device driver registration system.

18.   (new) The method of claim 17, wherein the layered device driver registration system comprises a driver list and a driver order file, and wherein registering the layered device driver with the layered device driver registration system comprises:

adding the layered device driver to the driver list; and

specifying in the driver order file a relative position for the layered device driver within the layered stack.

19.   (new) The method of claim 18, wherein adding the layered device driver to the driver list comprises adding a first key to a driver file maintained by the layered device driver registration system, said first key including a driver name for the layered device driver and a library name indicating an administrative library for the layered device driver, and wherein specifying the relative position for the layered device driver within the layered stack comprises adding a second key to a driver order file maintained by the layered device driver registration system, said second key including a driver name for the layered device driver and an ordinal value indicating the relative position of the layered device driver within the layered stack.

20.   (new) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

inserting the layered device into the layered stack by binding a third device driver to the layered device.

21.   (new) A device comprising:

a device driver for emulating a device, the device having a first device name;

a layered device driver bound to the device to form a layered device, the layered device having a second device name different than the first device name; and

3

a layered stack including a third device driver bound to the layered device.

22.   (new) The device of claim 21, wherein the first device name and the second device name are unique to a particular stage of re-layering.

23.   (new) The device of claim 22, wherein:

the device is associated with a third device name that is unique across all stages of re-layering; and

the layered device is associated with a fourth device name that is different than the third device name and is unique across all stages of re-layering.

24.   (new) The device of claim 21, wherein the first device name and the second device name are unique across all stages of re-layering.

25.   (new) The device of claim 21, further comprising an operating system and a layered device driver registration system, wherein the layered device driver is registered with the operating system and with the layered device driver registration system.

26.   (new) The device of claim 25, wherein the layered device driver registration system comprises a driver list and a driver order file, and wherein the layered device driver is added to the driver list a relative position for the layered device driver within the layered stack is specified in the driver order file.